Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23514 121636Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W
----------125648 130209Z /61
R 121605Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7070

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23514

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: US INTEREST IN HIGH LEVEL SECRETARIAT
POSITIONS

REFE/: -) STATE 186450; (B) PARIS 22775

1. PERM DEL BELIEVES THAT FILLING ASSISTANT ADG POSITION BELOW MAKAGIANSAR MIGHT ISOLATE AND ALIENATE HIM BECAUSE IN MANY INSTANCES, THE DG HAS GONE AROUND MAKAGIANSAR AND DIRECTLY TO OFFICIALS UNDER MAKAGIANSAR'S AUTHORITY WITHOUT CONSULTING HIM. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THIS REFLECTS MAKAGIANSAR'S RELATIVELY WEAK ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL, AS WELL AS DG'S WELL KNOWN PROCLIVITY TO PERSONALIZE HIS AUTHORITY AND LINES OF CONTACT AT ALL LEVELS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT. A NEW POSITION SUCH AS THAT SCRIBED REFTEL (B) PARA 3, WOULD SEEM TO DUPLICATE MAKAGIANSAR'S RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THUS BE LEGITIMATELY INTERPRETED AS UNDERCUTTING HIS AUTHORITY, AND INDICATE OPENLY DG'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM. THEREFORE, GIVEN NORMAL "BUREAUCRATIC SENSITIVITY" ON PART OF MAKAGIANSAR, WE COULD ASSUME THAT HE WOULD
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BE UNHAPPY WITH ANYONE WHO WAS IN A POSITION TO USURP AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD NORMALLY ACCOMPANY THE POSITION OF ADG. ALTHOUGH MAKAGIANSAR HAS ARTICULATED VIEWS COMMON TO MANY THIRD WORLD SPOKESMEN CONCERNING THE MASS MEDIA, IN OUR OPINION, HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE CLASSED AS A MODERATE, AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. WE CONSIDER HIM A "FRIEND",

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AND WOULD PREFER, WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM DISCOMFORT.

2. AS SHOULD BE EVIDENT FROM PARA. 7 OF REFTEL (B), PERMDEL HAD NOT RPT NOT INTENDED THAT POSSIBILITY OF ASST. ADG SLOT IN CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR BE INTERPRETED AS FULFILLING US REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH LEVEL POSITION. WE SIMPLY WANTED TO FLAG DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THIS ALTERNATIVE, AS WELL AS TO POINT OUT THAT SECRETARIAT, AT LEAST AT WORKING LEVEL, WOULD WELCOME AN AMERICAN IN SUCH A SLOT.

3. PLEASE NOTE THAT SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA. 7 OF REFTEL (B) SHOULD READ "...THE DG WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BACK IN PARIS...", ETC.
HARTMAN

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